



# Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

## OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 27 | 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Welcome Back to a Fantastic Summer Term!

#### Science focus on Lifecycles

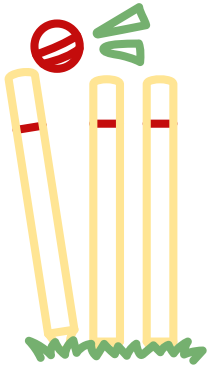
The children have been incredibly excited as they have watched the growth of our caterpillars. They began as titchy tiny caterpillars and have grown so much as they prepare for their next stage of life. You may want to ask your child what they think will happen next.



#### Cricket on the Field

Yesterday all our girls joined Berkshire Cricket Club on Courthouse field for a brilliant introduction to the sport and key skills. They have a fabulous time and all came back to school enthused by the sport. The session was planned to celebrate and promote the Women's Cricket World Cup.

The cricket club do run sessions for boys and girls. Details can be [found here](#) or you can search for [clubs here](#).



#### Parents/carers of Children With Additional Needs Focus Group

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the group this week. It was really helpful to understand your perspectives on transition in order for us to plan for the future. We were really glad to hear that the Alwyn class transition books were helpful so we will continue with these. We begin our transition activities with the children during the final term of school so look out for further details in the future.

#### More Exciting Baby News!

We are absolutely delighted to share some very special news with our school community.

Mrs MacLeod is expecting a baby! She and her family will be welcoming a little girl this coming August.

We are all incredibly thrilled to share in this joyous news, and we are so excited for Mrs MacLeod as she prepares for this wonderful new chapter.

Please join us in sending her and her growing family our warmest wishes and congratulations!



### The Alwyn Aims

These are the rules we all try to follow:

- Use kind hands, feet and words
- Say how we feel
- Look and listen
- Look after our things
- Always do our best



#### Remember to order lunches!

All hot dinners must be pre-ordered by 8am on the day.

If your child does not have a packed lunch or ordered a school lunch, they will be given a jacket potato with baked beans.

Please talk about the menu choices with your child as we are unable to change it on the day.

School lunches for infant age children are fully funded so parents do not pay for them. They are yummy




Look out for photos on our Alwyn facebook page or Instagram.

## Responsible Behaviour Curriculum in Alwyn and Courthouse

Our vision is to develop well rounded, confident and responsible children who aspire to achieve their full potential. We want our children to do their best in all aspects of school life - work, play, friendships and behaviour, and to take pride in all they do. We want them to develop respect and a sense of responsibility for themselves, each other, property, the wider community and the environment. To support this aim, we follow a behaviour curriculum that is explicitly taught and also weaves throughout the whole of school life.

Each week, the classes explore a different theme. They have a Monday 'check-in' circle time to introduce it and set a goal to work towards throughout the week. On Tuesday, the Year 1 and 2 assembly is time to think about the whole school approach to the theme. They celebrate their successes with a Friday 'check-out' circle time in their class.

To support this learning, there is a weekly leaflet for parents (below) to introduce the theme and sometimes gives ideas on how to help.



**THIS WEEK'S TOPIC IS  
MANAGING STRESS**

### What is stress and anxiety?

Stress and anxiety are normal parts of our lives. They are nature's natural defence mechanism which tell us when there are things we should worry about such as going somewhere new or taking an exam. The problem comes when stress or anxiety gets in the way of every day life.


### What can excessive stress or anxiety look like?


In younger children this can result in

- waking in the night
- being irritable
- being clingy to grown ups
- having bad dreams
- wetting the bed
- having pain like stomach or headache.

In older children it can show as

- difficulty concentrating
- mood swings
- having negative thoughts
- avoiding people even friends
- controlling eating











### What can you do?

The most important thing to do for your child is to talk to them openly about their feelings. Explain to them that anxiety is a natural response to situations and that it will pass if you can find a solution together. Aim to not be overprotective or anxious yourself as this has been shown to rub off onto your child and make them feel more anxious. Encourage them to practise self-care such as mindful colouring or exercising.

## The Responsible Behaviour Curriculum



| BLUE ZONE   | GREEN ZONE   | YELLOW ZONE   | RED ZONE   |
|---|--|---|--|
|  sad<br> tired  |  happy<br> calm                |  frustrated<br> worried |  angry<br> terrified |
|  sick<br> bored |  feeling ok<br> ready to learn |  silly<br> excited      |  yelling<br> hitting |
| I can try...  | I can try...   | I can try...  | I can try...   |
|  stretch   |  drink water  |  deep breaths  |  take a break   |

These zones of regulation are also a great way to help the children think about and identify their feelings, along with an idea to help manage them.

## What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception the children have been learning the sounds 'oa' as in goat and 'oo' as in cook. They have learnt the helpful words 'put' and 'have'. In Maths we have been rotating shapes and revising subitising to 6. The children have enjoyed tasting tropical fruits and describing them. Next week the children will continue looking at the story 'Handa's surprise' and will innovate their own versions. We have been excited to observe our caterpillars and see how they are changing. Whilst outside the children have been creating caterpillar cafes and homes for bugs!

**Ask me to tell you a word that has the 'oa' sound within it.**

**Ask me to tell you a word that rhymes with 'cook'.**

**Ask me to describe a pineapple.**

**Ask me to name some of the animals and fruits from 'Handa's Surprise'.**

**Ask me to tell you about the life cycle of a caterpillar.**

Next week the children will be learning the sounds 'oo' as in spoon and 'ar' as in arm. We will look at the helpful words 'when' and 'which'. In Science we will be looking at how we can care for our world and would like you to collect and bring in recycling materials, so we can sort them into their different groups e.g. paper, cardboard, plastic etc. Please talk to your child about ways that we can care for our world. Have a lovely weekend!

**PE day is on Tuesday (no PE kit needed).**

## What have Year 1 been learning this week?

What a busy week we have had! We have continued to explore things that grow and this week have been finding out about different sorts of trees. We went on a walk around the school grounds and looked at different leaves and tree trunks and tried to identify some trees. Back inside, we have done a lot of sorting of different sized and shaped leaves. We have also done some bark and leaf rubbings with different media which has been messy but fun! In our maths sessions we have been looking at patterns when we count in 2s, 10s and 5s. We have also had lots of fun grouping objects and problem solving using grouping. We have been able to link our maths and science learning by grouping leaves and fruit on tree branches.

**Ask me to tell you the difference between Evergreen and Deciduous trees.**

**Ask me to tell you about how our caterpillars have changed.**

**Ask me to tell you something about the magical land we are imagining in English.**

**Ask me to read the words on my new phonics sheet.**

**Ask me to tell you - If we put the 10 sweets into bags with 2 in each bag, how many bags will we need? .**

**Ask me to continue this counting pattern: 10, 20, 30...**

**PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

# KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

## Summer Term 5

27th April

IT workshops with 3

4th May

Bank Holiday - School Closed

6th May

Year 1 Trip to Bekonscot

13th May

Year 2 Trip to Maidenhead Mosque and picnic lunch

18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Walk to School Week

18th May

Y1 Phonics Screening Check Information Session @ 2.30pm

18th - 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Walk to School Week

22<sup>nd</sup> May

No Pens Day

Last day of term

Normal finish time

25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May

Half Term Break

## What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week in Year Two, the children have been taking on the role of geographers. They have been learning about and comparing the continents of Europe and Antarctica. In maths, the children have been revisiting their previous learning from last term and having a go at some problem solving and reasoning. They have been using amazing mathematical language in their explanations. In PE, they have been focusing on athletics, practicing their jumping techniques and in music, they have been learning about what it means to be a good friend through a variety of songs.

**Ask me what strategy I would use to solve  $24 + 14$ .**

**Ask me what  $1/2$  of 30 is.**

**Ask me which continent I would like to live on a why.**

**Ask me to tell you a difference between Europe and Antarctica.**

**Ask me to describe the main character in my story.**

Next week we will be learning all about Florence Nightingale.

**PE days: HOLLY: Wednesday & Friday**

**PINE: Wednesday & Friday**

**SPRUCE: Monday & Friday**

**Congratulations!**

**A huge 'well done' to all the children who have been in the golden book, this week.**

**We are very proud of you!**



## KEY DATES!

**School Year 2025-2026**

**Summer Term 6**

1<sup>st</sup> June

INSET Day (2) - School Closed for children.

2<sup>nd</sup> June

All children back to school

5th June

Class Photographs

8th-12th June

Phonics Screening Check for Year 1

11th June

Farm visit to Little Alwyn

15<sup>th</sup> June

Yr2 Trip to Wellington Country Park

26<sup>th</sup> June, 9.15-11am

Sports morning with Grown Ups (Sports Day)

29<sup>th</sup> June

New parent meeting 6pm

3<sup>rd</sup> July

Reports being sent home

4<sup>th</sup> July

PTA Colour Run

8<sup>th</sup> July

Open School Event, 4-5pm

15<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30am

Year 2 Performance to their grown ups

17<sup>th</sup> July

Last day of term, 1.30pm finish

# May Half Term: Holiday Camps and Activities

Holiday Events Disclaimer: Please note that the events listed are organised by external parties and are not endorsed or recommended by Alwyn Infant School. We provide this information as a courtesy to our community. We advise families to exercise their own discretion and judgement when participating in any events or activities.

## WISE OWLS MAY HALF TERM CLUB

@ COURTHOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD

May Half Term Holiday Club  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
8:30am – 5:30pm  
Courthouse Junior School, SL6 5HE

Our May Half Term programme is packed with excitement, hands-on activities, outdoor adventures and memorable themed experiences. With a carefully designed timetable and flexible free-choice zones, children enjoy the perfect balance of structured sessions and independent exploration.

- ♥ Children ages 3-14 years
- ♥ From just £39.50 per day\* (only £4.38 per hour)
- ♥ Home cooked, healthy all day menu only £6.85
- ♥ Activities to suit all interests and abilities
- ♥ Every child has a pastoral care worker to ensure their wellbeing

"My favourite thing about holiday club is they give us lots of free time to do what we want."

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info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk  
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# Community Pages: What is happening in our local area?

Community Events Disclaimer: Please note that the events listed are organised by external parties and are not endorsed or recommended by Alwyn Infant School. We provide this information as a courtesy to our community. We advise families to exercise their own discretion and judgement when participating in any events or activities.



**CENTRE for AUTISM WELLBEING HUB**

## Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond

As part of the University's centenary celebrations, we are hosting a free public hybrid (in person and online) event on the evening of 6 May on the theme of *Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond*.

Join us for an evening that brings together autistic children and young people, their families, students, professionals and researchers to explore what supports autistic children to flourish in education and everyday life.

The event will include talks from:

- Professor Elizabeth McCrum, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) at the University of Reading
- Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Jo Billington, Wellbeing Hub project leads
- Andy Smith, founder of Spectrum Gaming, and a passionate advocate for young people's voices in education.

For in person attendees, there will also be an opportunity to review a poster presentation of current autism research from academics and students in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. Refreshments will be provided.

**Wednesday 6 May**  
G10 lecture theatre, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus, RG6 6EW

**In person:** 18:45–21:00  
**Online:** 19:00–20:30 via Microsoft Teams

For more details and to book your place, please visit our website.



## Upcoming Events

Please visit our website to book your space - [www.Gems4Health.com](http://www.Gems4Health.com)

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>MAY 05</b><br>7 PM TO 9 PM<br>3 Part Autism Course        | <b>MAY 13</b><br>10 AM TO 12 NOON<br>Empowering Calm                              | <b>MAY 18</b><br>7 PM TO 9 PM<br>Understanding Emotional Regulation       |
| <b>JUNE 03</b><br>10 AM TO 12 NOON<br>PDA - Demand Avoidance | <b>JUNE 09</b><br>7 PM TO 9 PM<br>Sleep - Autism and ADHD                         | <b>JUNE 10</b><br>10 AM TO 12 NOON<br>Managing Anxiety                    |
| <b>JUNE 10</b><br>7 PM TO 9 PM<br>3 Part ADHD Course         | <b>JULY 01</b><br>10 AM TO 12 NOON<br>Barriers to School, Can't go, Not won't go! | <b>TBC 00</b><br>7 PM - 9 PM<br>AuDHD & Interception workshop coming soon |

Parenting Special Children | NHS Frimley | the autism group



## JUNIOR CRICKET AT PINKNEYS GREEN CC



- ✓ Under 7s (All Stars) FRIDAY EVENING
- ✓ Under 9s & Under 11s FRIDAY EVENING
- ✓ Under 13s SATURDAY MORNING
- ✓ Under 15s WEDNESDAY EVENING
- ✓ Under 17s THURSDAY EVENING
- ✓ Cricket Coaching for boys and girls from ages 5+ matches from ages 7+. All abilities welcome
- ✓ Pinkneys Green CC operates an inclusive selection policy at junior levels ensuring everyone gets the opportunity to contribute and enjoy cricket.

**Interested?** – [secretary@pinkneysgreenc.com](mailto:secretary@pinkneysgreenc.com)  
Pinkneys Green CC · Pinkneys Dr, Maidenhead SL6 6QD



## TISKA

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**LOCATED IN** Furze Platt Leisure Centre, Furze Platt Road, MAIDENHEAD

**SESSIONS** Sunday 26th April 2026 2.15pm then every Sunday thereafter

**CONTACT US**

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SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE

# Penalty Notice Changes

Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances and must be agreed, in advance, by the Head of School. An Exceptional Leave form must be completed and the school may ask for further evidence to support the application.

## First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent if paid within 21 days.



**Please ensure you communicate all absences for your child to school.**

## Second Offence

Within 3 years, if a second Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be

- £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.
- No reduction for early payment.

## Third Offence Onwards - Within 3 years of the first offence

The third time an offence is committed for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the magistrates court.

Fines can be around £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found to be guilty in the magistrate's court can show as a criminal record.

## Notices to Improve

A Notice to Improve is a final opportunity for a parent to engage in support and improve before a penalty notice is issued. If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate but offers of support have not been engaged with by the parent or guardian or have not worked, a Notice to Improve should usually be sent to give parents or guardians a final chance to engage in support.

A Notice to Improve does not need to be issued in cases where support is not appropriate and an authorised officer can choose not to issue one in any case, including cases where support is appropriate but they do not expect a Notice to Improve would have any behavioural impact (because the parent has already received one for a similar offence).

If sufficient improvement is not made following the service of a Notice to Improve, a penalty notice may be issued either during or at the end of the designated time period.

## Don't forget.

Penalty Notices are issues Per Parent, Per Child.  
For example 3 siblings absent would result in each parent receiving 3 fines. This could amount to £960

[Click this link to visit the school website for further information.](#)



## 10 sessions in 10 weeks

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions (not days) of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

**5 Consecutive days** of term time leave can trigger a Penalty Notice

## Punctuality

Children in Reception should be at the classroom door by 8.45am.

Children in Years 1 and 2 should be at their classroom door by 8.50am.

If your child arrives to school after these times, your child will receive an unauthorised late mark- this affects your child's attendance. The school gates are locked at 9am.

If arriving late, you must bring your child into the school office and sign them into school with a reason for the lateness.

# School Day

| Year Group | Reception         | Year 1     | Year 2           |
|------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| Start      | 8.45am            | 8.50am     | 8.50am           |
| Lunch      | 11.45am - 12.45pm | 12pm - 1pm | 12.20pm - 1.20pm |
| Finish     | 3.15pm            | 3.20pm     | 3.20pm           |
| →          | →                 | →          | →                |

## The School Gates

The Alwyn and Courthouse gates open at 8.40am until 9.00am and 3.10pm until 3.35pm

The opening times allow movement between our two schools and provide different points of access which should help with traffic and parking in our area.

The gate opening times are different from the time your child is required to be in school.

## The Importance of Being on Time

**Reception children need to be in school by 8.45am.**

**Year 1 and 2 children need to be in school by 8.50am.**

The classroom doors will open at these times and close as soon as the last child in the line enters the classroom; this usually takes less than 3 minutes. Any child arriving after the classroom door is shut, will be marked as late. Knocking on the classroom door once it is closed is disruptive to the children as their teacher is having to keep opening the door instead of settling their class for the morning.

Please be on time every morning. It can be worrying for a child to enter a classroom late especially when their classmates are sat on the carpet ready to learn. All children should have come into school, put their belongings in the cloakroom, their book bag in their drawer and their water bottle in the tray and have been registered before 9am each morning.

## Attendance Matters

Being in school every day is extremely important for all children in order to receive the best possible start to their learning. Your child's attendance is vital to a successful education, as this is the foundation for lifelong learning. Lessons are planned in sequences and if a child misses a part of this sequence, they are at a disadvantage when it comes to committing that learning to long term memory.

If your child is slightly under the weather, but well enough to come into school, send them in and mention it to the class teacher. They will keep an eye on your child and phone you if there are any concerns.

## Reason for absence

Please let the office know the specific reason for your child's absence rather than feeling unwell or ill. This helps us monitor any small outbreaks of similar virus' and supports the recording of absence.

## Medical Appointments

If you have a medical appointment during the school day, inform the school before the appointment and provide a GP/Hospital appointment card or letter.

## Leave Requests

Holidays during term time will not be authorised. Any other exceptional circumstances will require supporting evidence that shows the child has to attend something that results in missed school days.

Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) may be triggered if your child misses 5 consecutive days of school or 10 sessions in 10 weeks. A session means a morning or afternoon, not a day.

Please ensure that you make all reasonable efforts to send your child into school.